

## Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism

Youth Voice Workshop – Listed below are the Volunteer and Service Learning projects developed by youth who attended the workshop. These projects reflect the concerns of our youth and how they would like to make a difference in their communities. Many of the youth submitted their ideas without identifying themselves.

### Animals

1. **Animal Education** through free clinics: Middle school age youth create programs to teach the public about animal safety and the importance of spaying and neutering their pets. *Brian, Sarah, Lisa, Ali*

### Basic Life Necessities/Skills – clothing, food

2. **Clothing and Canned Food Drive for Disaster Relief:** Youth will research the needs and disaster history of the group they are helping. It needs to be at least a semester long, preferably the entire school year. This project would include students of any age. *Kate Scully, Ginny Price*
3. **Wealthy People live on Food stamps:** Parents and other adults will develop budgets and live on food stamps. They will then talk about their experiences to politicians and decision makers about the reality of living on food stamps for at least a month. This project would be in Tucson/Foothills. *Becca and Rachel*
4. **Living and Eating Healthy – Pass It On! :** Youth will develop projects with the help of PE/health teachers during class or as an extracurricular activity. Youth concerned about childhood obesity and lack of exercise will develop service projects to address this issue. Youth will teach their family, friends and the community to live healthier lives. *Daniel Payne*

### Border Issues

5. **Education about US/Mexican Border issues:** Jumping over the border may be bad but that doesn't mean that people should be killed or die while trying to cross. This issue will be addressed by service learning projects. *Paul Frius*

### Child Abuse

6. **Caring for Abused Children:** Youth will spend time and give attention to youth in foster care. They will read to the children, paint, help with homework. The foster children will know that they are loved. Youth would spend an hour a week with their friend showing compassion and empathy for their new friends.

### Community Gardens

7. **Community Gardens:** Anyone can identify green space and be included in a community garden project. It would be beneficial to have it in a community that is challenged by high crime. The entire community could learn about homegrown produce and develop gardening skills. It would teach people that there is something beautiful in each neighborhood.
8. **Promoting and Teaching Self-Sustainability:** A community or school garden project that would teach composting, rain-water use, environmental science, primitive living skills and cooking to low income families and youth of all ages. Younger children would learn to grow food and how to prepare and eat it for lunch.  
*Nicole Charles*
9. **Grow Produce in Your Yard:** Youth will assist other youth and their families to grow gardens in the yards they have available. This will teach youth how to provide some food items for their families.

### Community and Home Improvement

10. **Trash Pickup (Tucson):** Youth will pick up trash in their neighborhoods and parks to help keep the community clean. *Jennifer Gust*
11. **Home Improvement:** Youth would fix up old or build new facilities for the benefit of the community. Faith-based youth would work after school with the help of adult members to create this project. *Renee Hoover*

### Drug Abuse

12. **Youth against Drugs in Flagstaff:** High school youth would address the lack of activities in Flagstaff that contributes to drug abuse among teens.  
*Rebecca Lascelles*
13. **Statewide Teen Substance Abuse Projects:** Youth will create projects to communicate to other youth about the dangers and affects of abuse.  
*Courtney Rothwell, Courtney Nash, Arianna Balderaz*

### Education

14. **Reading goes on the Road** in rural communities: High school and college youth assist elementary age youth to learn to read. This is an ongoing service project benefiting the rural communities.

15. **For the Love of Reading:** Elementary to high school youth will develop a service project to help other youth develop a love for reading by allowing youth to create lists and recommendations of reading materials of interest to children. Partnerships will be developed with local libraries. *Michael Wells, Sara Drury*
16. **Bring Art and Music Back** to schools: Older youth with a background in music and art will provide resources, knowledge, and passion of the arts to underprivileged youth. Youth would advocate for more classes in these areas.  
*GYC members 2008-2009*
17. **Poverty in America:** This project will bring information to others about the existence of poverty in this nation. Youth affected by poverty will be paired with those who are not. The object is to teach people about poverty and how it affects youth which would grow into a global service project.  
*Tara Hughes, Nicole Camper, Jesus Ruiz*

#### Graffiti

18. **Graffiti Cleanup in Guadalupe:** This would be an on-going service project to clean graffiti on local homes and businesses.

#### Health

19. **Teen HIV /Aids, and STD Awareness and Prevention:** Youth will create a magazine addressing these issues. They will conduct small group presentations/discussions with other youth in their communities to talk about the risk factors. This would be an ongoing project benefiting youth ages 11-18.  
*Shannon, Alan*
20. **Free Health Insurance:** Health insurance would be provided to a certain number of children for one year. Youth in grades K through 12 would participate in service project by developing a relationship with an insurance company or another group. This insurance company or group of people would match the amount of money raised by the youth to pay for insurance for youth who were not covered. Projects would be developed to get people to pledge money for a run, walk or other activity. This could be accomplished in any city/state.  
*Stephanie Wilson, Mollie Kidari*
21. **You Are Not Alone - Pillows for Children:** Youth will make pillows/blankets for children in hospitals, hospice or homeless shelters. Children helping children with fashion design, creativity in designing pillows and blankets for other youth.
22. **Stop Teen Violence in Flagstaff:** Youth will address the drug use by teens in the community. Flagstaff needs offer more opportunities for youth to engage in meaningful activities. *Gary Lightfoot*

23. **Youth against Drugs** (Flagstaff): Youth will develop service projects to address drug abuse among teens in the community. They will explore and create more activities for youth in Flagstaff. *Rebecca Lascelles*
24. **Bike and Walk to School** (Flagstaff): Reduce school bus emissions, car pollution and traffic during rush hour when youth bike or walk to school. There will be increased health benefits and an increase bond between youth and parents when they bike or walk together. Adult volunteers can walk or bike with younger children or there can be biking and walking groups. *Elizabeth Vogler*

### Humanity

25. **Accept everyone as they are because we are ONE:** Youth learn about poverty, human differences, life hardships, lifestyle differences and learn to accept people. Youth will learn the importance of being open-minded about the differences of others. High school youth will create service projects addressing the need to accept people as they are. *Aaron Hubele*
26. **Inclusion for People with Disabilities:** Youth will examine buildings and facilities to make certain that every building is accessible to everyone. People have to become aware of the necessity of accessibility for all.

### Homelessness

27. **Engaging Homeless Youth in Volunteerism:** Youth will learn about being homeless by spending a night in a box, visiting a shelter and sharing an activity. The project will be at a local homeless shelter. The youth will have the experience that simulates homelessness and then develop projects with and for homeless youth. This is for high school students, homeless, at-risk youth, organizations and supporters. *Lisa Rolland*
28. **Homeless Connect:** Youth research homelessness in their communities and learn about community resources for homeless families. Projects are created to address homelessness and connect families to resources and advocate for needed resources. *Ashlee Day, Kevin Aurley, Kurt Mattocks, Cathy Carranza, Derek Snyder*
29. **Homeless Shelter Volunteers:** Youth would demonstrate their compassion, understanding and appreciation for humanity by volunteering at a homeless shelter at least one day per month.

## Volunteerism

30. **Youth Volunteers** –getting youth to volunteer in small communities: This would be a year around project with youth partnering with the local community center or other youth centers to motivate youth of all ages, to help their community and make a difference. *Angela Cotsonas*
31. **High School Volunteerism:** Projects can be developed in any high schools in Tucson to motivate and expose other youth to volunteer in their community. *Rosa*